



# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

PARISH WORKBOOK  
ST. JOSEPH - APPLE CREEK

# ABOUT YOUR PARISH WORKBOOK

- This parish workbook is designed to equip pastors and key parish leaders with data about the Archdiocese of St. Louis, your local planning area, and your parish.
- The data contained in this parish workbook has been gathered over the past twenty years from your parish and other parishes across the Archdiocese.
- This parish workbook should be used as an internal planning tool to help shape your reflections on the current strengths and opportunities for future growth of ministry and evangelization in the future.
- To help ensure accuracy of information, parishes are requested to limit the distribution of the information contained in this parish workbook to the pastor, parish staff, key parish leaders, and key advisory bodies. Information summarizing this data will be made available in the fall 2022 for parishioners across the Archdiocese.



# ALL THINGS NEW PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to “Go and Make Disciples of all Nations,” strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## GUIDING TEXTS

### REV. 21:3-5

*I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them.*

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, the old order has passed away.”*

*The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.”*





## GUIDING TEXTS EVANGELII NUNTIANDI (#18)

*For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."*

*But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel.*







## GUIDING TEXTS JOY OF THE GOSPEL (#27)

*I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.*



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE OUTCOME

**Develop a plan that will make all things new enabling a vibrant Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis for the next century**

## **A Renewed Church**

Gospel renewal in our parishes, schools, and other ministry efforts

## **A Renewed Mission**

Enhance our evangelization efforts to those on the margins of society

## **A Vibrant Future**

Secure a vibrant future for the Church of St. Louis



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE

## GOALS

1. **Unceasing Prayer.** Engage all individual Catholics to reflect upon the need for Jesus Christ in their daily lives and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our actions to fully share the love of the Lord in every encounter.
2. **Unifying Vision.** Articulate and implement a vision for evangelization that empowers and expects every baptized Catholic to spread the Gospel message and ensures a Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis through missionary outreach, parish and school footprint, and dynamic leadership.
3. **Intentional Stewardship.** Define and develop a plan that will appropriately reallocate resources throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis that will be supported by structures at the diocesan, parish, school, and agency levels to ensure long-term viability and vibrancy of the Catholic presence.





# ALL THINGS NEW TIMELINE





# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

OUR DIOCESE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

# ABOUT OUR DIOCESE

- The Archdiocese of St. Louis is 178 parishes encompassing the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding counties – a large and diverse territory: urban, suburban and rural.
- Our local church has been declining for several decades as older Catholics die and there are insufficient number of young Catholics to take their place.
- This is best exemplified by the significant decline in the number of births and baptisms in our diocese.
- As our Catholic population has moved from the city to the near suburbs and from the near suburbs to the farther out suburbs, this has resulted in too few priests in large parishes and too many priests in small parishes.
- Our diocesan priests are aging and number of priests to serve our Catholic population is declining.
- Over the past decade, Mass attendance has been on a steady decline. The long-term implications of COVID are unknown, but the rebound in Mass attendance from 2020 to 2021 still leaves us 25% below pre-COVID levels.



# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- In 2021, the number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis dipped below 500,000 for first time since the 1960s.
- We have more baptisms than funerals and we have nearly 1,000 enter the church each year. Our numbers should be growing by 2,000 per year.
- As many as 5,000 Catholics are “leaving” the Church – OR – not re-engaging in the Church after high school or college.



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION IS AGING RESULTING IN FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE

## The Landscape in the United States

- In the last decade, the percentage of the adult population claiming no religious affiliation (the “nones”) grew from 17% to 26%.
- In the last decade, the percentage of the millennial population claiming no religious affiliation grew from 27% to 40%.

## The Landscape in the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Our baptism and marriage trends reflect the national landscape, as they are half of what they were 20 years ago.





# WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mass attendance was declining between 0.5% to 1% per year.
- Mass attendance hit a record low in October 2020 which is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While Mass attendance in October 2021 showed a significant increase from 2020, it was still 25% lower than Mass attendance in October 2019.
- In 2019, only 33% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass. By 2021, only 25% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass.



# FEWER BAPTISMS HAVE RESULTED IN FEWER CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND PSR

- Though we educate a higher percentage of children in our Catholic schools than nearly any other diocese (37%), enrollment continues to decline.
- During the last decade, PSR enrollment has declined faster than day school enrollment.
- Our current model of Catholic elementary schools cannot continue.
  - Only 40-50% of our elementary school children live in the boundaries of their parish school.
  - The cost to educate our students continues to outpace tuition increases.
  - Parish investment in our schools continues to absorb an increasing percentage of parish funds available to support other parish ministries.



# OUR PRIESTS ARE AGING

- 35% of our diocesan priests (74 priests) serving in parishes are 65 years of age or older.
- These 74 priests could retire in the next 10 years.
- Though priests' retirement age is 75, the average of retirement for our diocesan priests has been 71.
- By 2026, we will have fewer diocesan priests to serve in parishes than the number of parishes we have.
- Our largest parishes will still need to be served by 2-3 priests.



\* Excluding retired priests resident in parishes



# OUR FINITE RESOURCES NEED TO BE REALIGNED TO ENABLE VIBRANT MINISTRY



Number of Priests *	49	46	38	27	50
Ratio of Parishioners to Priests	619	1,416	1,996	2,704	3,411

\* Includes diocesan and religious order priests





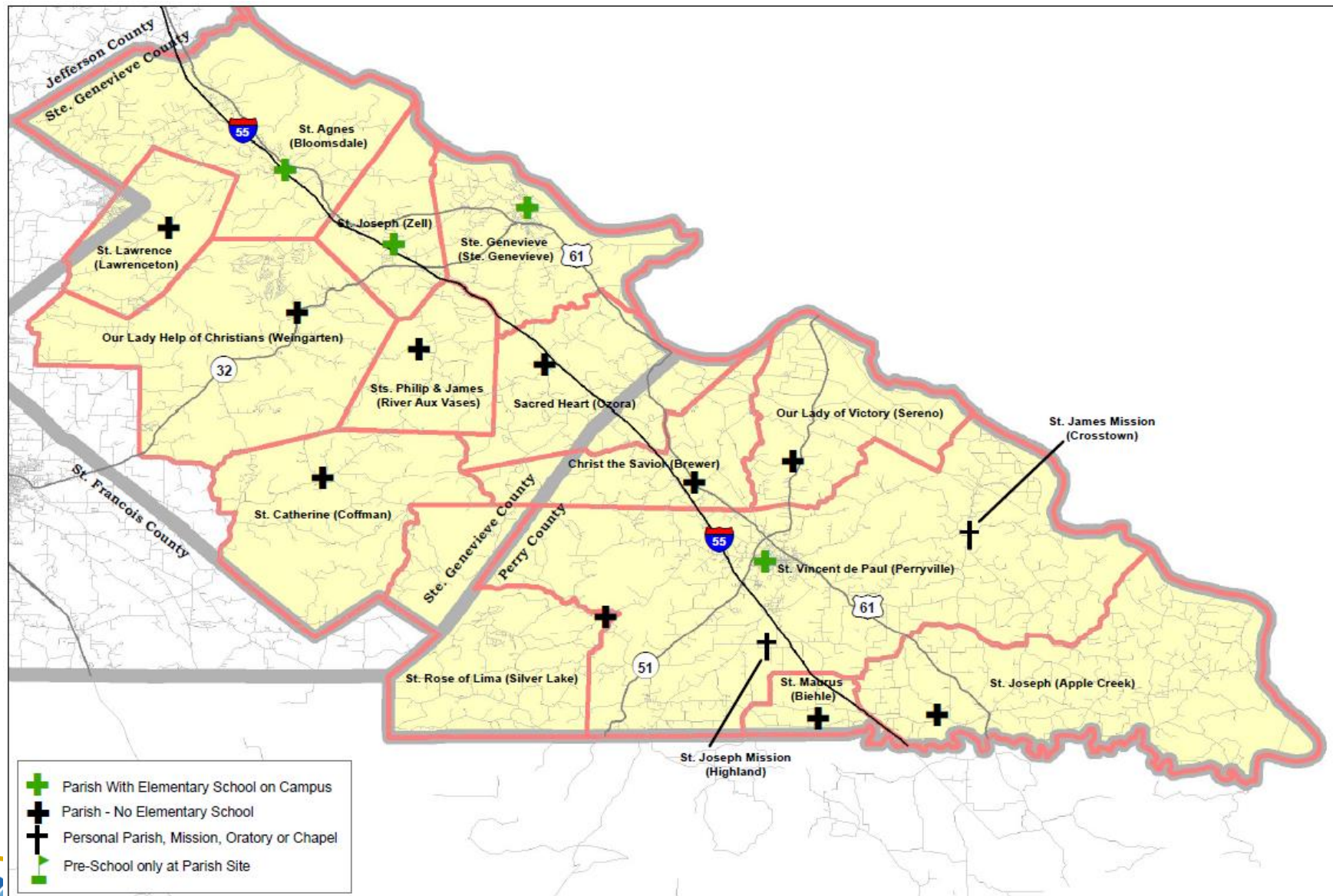
# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

OUR PLANNING AREA  
PLANNING AREA #15

# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION





# ABOUT OUR PLANNING AREA

- The planning area is in the Ste. Genevieve and Perry Counties. The geography of this area is defined by Interstate 55, Highway 61 and Routes 32 and 51.
- Located in Ste. Genevieve deanery. There are 14 territorial parishes, 2 missions and 4 elementary schools. Currently, there are 8 diocesan and 2 order priests assigned to this group.
- Parishes and church buildings are at least 5 miles apart, however drive times to nearest parishes tend to be 10 to 15 minutes.



# OUR PLANNING AREA IS RURAL AND VERY CATHOLIC

- Total population in the planning area in the 2020 census was up 1% from 2010.
- The population 55 or older increased from 25% in 2000 to 34% in 2020.
- 34% of the population is registered Catholic, which is higher than the Diocesan average of 18%. This is a very Catholic area.
- Median household income in the area is \$57,804, which is below the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.



# OUR PLANNING AREA DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	1990	2000	2010	2020
Population	31,311	34,205	35,903	36,162
Percent Change		9%	5%	1%
Households	11,355	12,908	13,988	14,248
Percent Change		14%	8%	2%
Population				
White	31,073	33,559	34,964	33,799
Percent of Total	99%	98%	97%	93%
Black	62	154	185	424
Percent of Total	0%	0%	1%	1%
Other/Multi-Race	175	492	754	1,939
Percent of Total	1%	1%	2%	5%
Hispanic (not a race)	115	215	456	647
Percent of Total	0%	1%	1%	2%
% of Population Age 55+	26%	25%	29%	34%

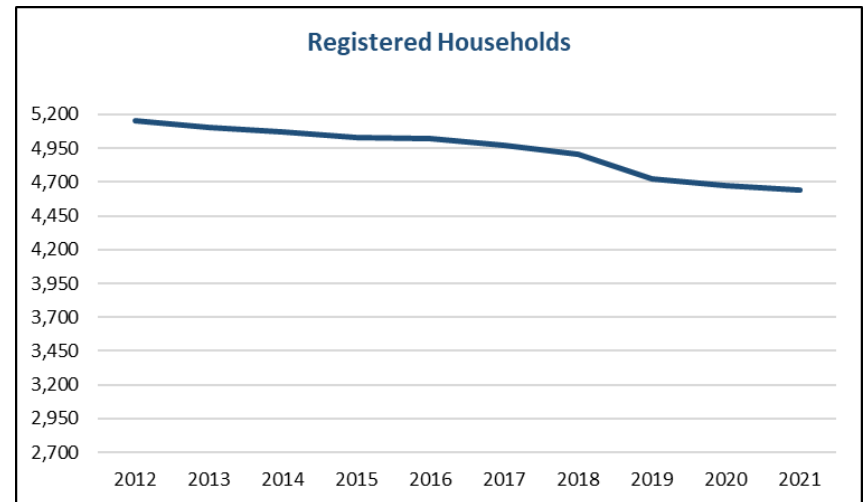
2020 Data	
% of Households - Renters	24%
% of Households - Single Person Living Alone	24%
Median Household Income	
Planning Area	\$ 57,804
Archdiocese	\$ 60,700
2021 Data	
% of Population Registered Catholic	
Planning Area	34%
Archdiocese	18%
No. of Catholic School Children in Planning Area	594
2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)	
% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools	94%



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

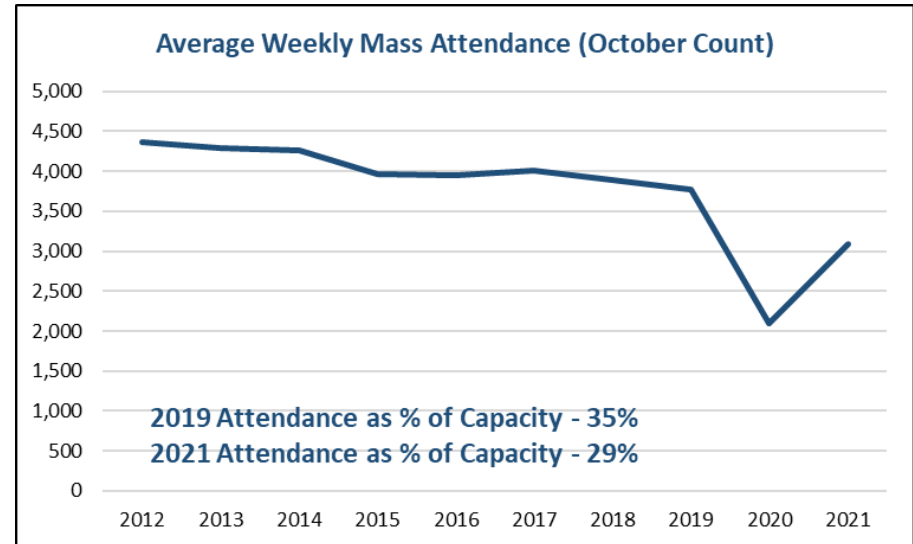
- Registered households in the planning area declined by 10% during the past decade, compared to a decline of 7% for the diocese.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

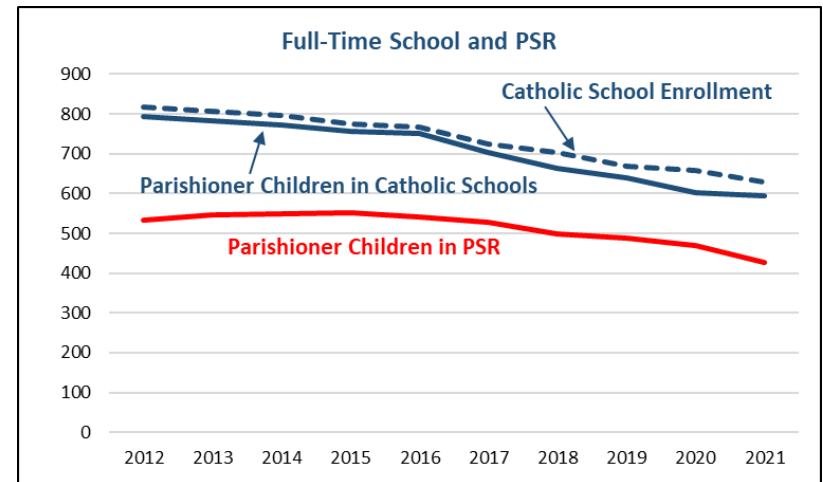
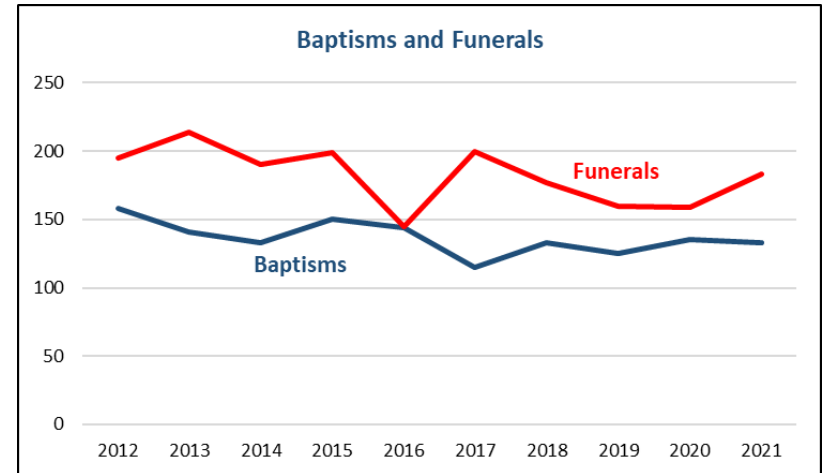
- Mass attendance declined 21% during the decade, a lesser decline than 30% for the entire diocese.
- Mass attendance % of capacity was at about the Archdiocesan average of 35% in 2019 and 25% in 2021.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 FORMATION

- An aging Catholic population as funerals continue higher than baptisms.
- The Catholics of this planning area have a strong preference for Catholic day schools over PSR, as the area is anchored by its two parish high schools.
- Catholic school enrollment declined by 23% during the past decade, about the same as the diocese as a whole.
- PSR enrollment declined only 20%, compared to a 40% decline for the diocese as a whole.





# OUR PLANNING AREA

## MINISTRY TRENDS

	Registered Parishioner Households		Number of Catholics	Weekend Mass Attendance		Church Capacity	Baptisms	Funerals	Parishioner Children in:	
							Five Year Average 2017-2021		Catholic Schools (Include Privates)	Traditional PSR
	2011	2021	2021	2019	2021					
Christ the Savior (Brewer)	175	139	330	137	91	250	4	5	5	3
Our Lady Help of the Christians (Weingarten)	142	132	395	199	172	225	3	3	17	8
Our Lady of Victory (Serenio)	160	149	379	171	122	325	2	3	3	4
Sacred Heart (Ozora)	158	158	396	161	126	180	8	8	7	9
St. Agnes (Bloomsdale)	365	338	1,035	342	265	500	10	12	92	32
St. Catherine (Coffman)	31	29	61	38	34	125	1	1	3	2
St. James Mission (Crosstown)	46	41	94	n/a *	n/a *	90	0	0	1	0
St. Joseph (Apple Creek)	172	175	371	234	179	250	4	5	8	16
St. Joseph (Zell)	322	255	735	253	235	275	11	9	19	52
St. Joseph Mission (Highland)	38	35	63	n/a *	n/a *	160	0	2	2	0
St. Lawrence (Lawrenceton)	52	43	102	64	55	250	0	1	6	0
St. Maurus (Biehle)	173	169	395	183	203	212	4	6	2	30
St. Rose of Lima (Silver Lake)	105	93	197	n/a *	n/a *	200	1	5	7	2
St. Vincent de Paul (Perryville)	1,850	1,736	4,700	1,104	738	600	46	59	273	170
Ste. Genevieve (Ste. Genevieve)	1,200	1,067	2,585	794	794	960	30	57	145	91
Sts. Philip & James (River Aux Vases)	110	81	173	87	73	250	2	3	4	7
TOTAL	5,099	4,640	12,011	3,768	3,085		127	175	594	426

\* St. Rose of Lima (Silver Lake), St. James Mission (Crosstown), & St. Joseph Mission (Highland) do not have scheduled weekend Masses.



# OUR PLANNING AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS DECLINING

- The four elementary schools in this planning area have 628 children enrolled in Catholic elementary schools, down 18% from 5 years ago.
- Most schools draw heavily from outside their parish boundaries.
- The number of students going to Catholic elementary schools from the parishes in the planning area is 599.
- Despite declining elementary enrollment, both high schools have maintained stable to slightly increasing enrollment over the past decade.
- There are 426 students enrolled in PSR in 2021, down 21% from 5 years earlier.



# OUR PLANNING AREA

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRENDS

	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22 vs 2016-17	2021-22	2021-22
	Enrollment (K-8)	Enrollment (Pre-K) PK 3-4 & PK 4-5	5 Year Percent Change in (K-8) Enrollment	% K-8 Students Registered in Parish	% K-8 Students Living in Parish Boundaries
St. Agnes - Bloomsdale	92	0	(29%)	84%	58%
St. Joseph - Zell	28	22	0%	36%	25%
St. Vincent de Paul - Perryville	316	14	(16%)	86%	71%
Valle - Ste. Genevieve	193	51	(18%)	73%	39%
TOTAL	629	87	(18%)	n/a	n/a





# ALL THINGS NEW

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OUR PARISH  
ST. JOSEPH - APPLE CREEK

## ABOUT OUR PARISH

- Founded in 1828, St. Joseph parish is one of the oldest parishes in the archdiocese and is the farthest southeast parish in the St. Louis Archdiocese. Starting as a mission out of St. Mary of the Barrens, it became a parish with a resident pastor in 1847. The parish operated an elementary school since the mid 1800s which finally closed in 2003. Its day school students attend St. Vincent de Paul school in Perryville and along with St. Maurus parish in neighboring Biehle, they jointly run a two-parish PSR.
- The parish church was dedicated in 1885 and seats 250. The parish operates its own parish cemetery.



# ABOUT OUR PARISH

- A stable area of Perry County with no population growth and a slightly aging population.
- Stable parish membership and Mass attendance. PSR enrollment has been declining.
- Parish finances are stable.





# OUR PARISH AREA IS STABLE WITH AN AGING POPULATION

- Population in the area has not changed in 30 years.
- The area is aging somewhat as the percent of the population over age 55 has increased from 27% to 38% over the past 20 years.
- Median household income is \$57,200 which is below the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.
- 22% of the resident population is Catholic which is above the archdiocesan average of 18%.



# OUR PARISH

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>Population</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>2,072</b>
<i>Percent Change</i>		3%	-1%	-3%
<b>Households</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>824</b>
<i>Percent Change</i>		10%	2%	-4%
<b>Population</b>				
<b>White</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>2,025</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	99%	98%	99%	98%
<b>Black</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	1%	1%	0%	0%
<b>Other/Multi-Race</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	0%	1%	1%	2%
<b>Hispanic (not a race)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	1%	0%	0%	0%
<b>% of Population Age 55+</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>38%</b>

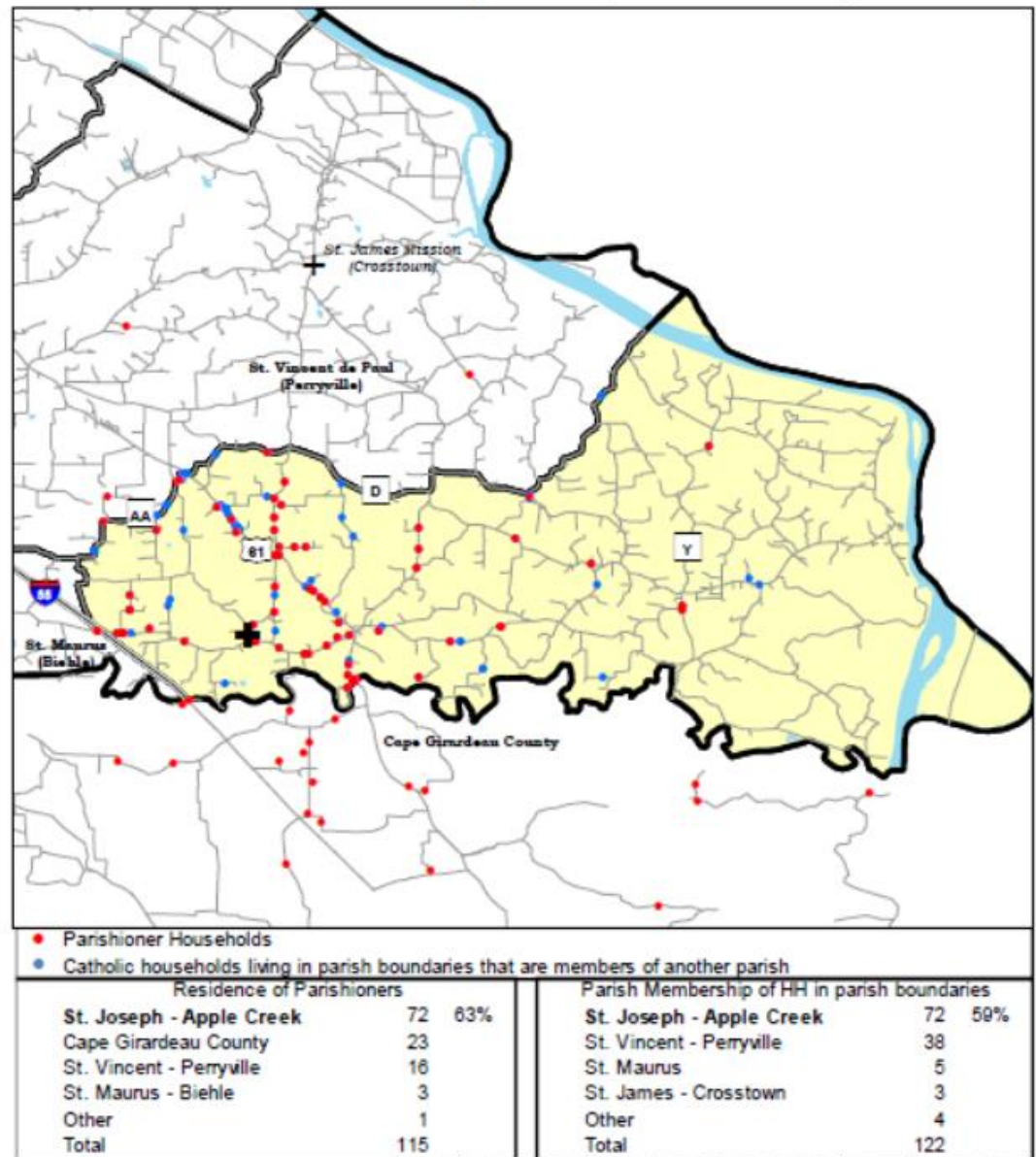
<b>2020 Data</b>	
<i>% of Households - Renters</i>	11%
<i>% of Households - Single Person Living Alone</i>	22%
<hr/>	
<b>Median Household Income</b>	
Parish Area	\$ 57,189
Archdiocese	\$ 60,700
<b>2021 Data</b>	
<b>% of Population Registered Catholic</b>	
Parish Area	22%
Archdiocese	18%
<b>No. of Catholic School Children in Parish Area</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)</b>	
<b>% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools</b>	<i>n/a</i>



# WHERE OUR PARISHIONERS & CATHOLICS LIVE

- Red dots are parishioner households; blue dots are Catholic households that are registered at a different parish.
- We had available for the map fewer parishioner addresses than there were parishioner households.
- There are just as many parishioner households (115) as there are Catholic households in the boundaries (122).
- This means that just as many Catholic households come into the parish from outside the boundaries than leave the parish territory to affiliate elsewhere.
- 20% of parishioner households live in Cape Girardeau County outside the Archdiocese.

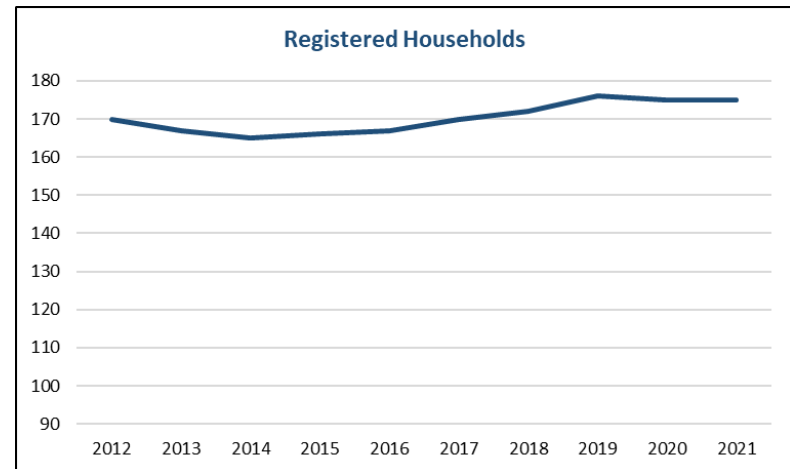
63 Percent of parishioner households live within the parish boundaries  
59 Percent of Catholic households living within the parish boundaries are parishioners



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

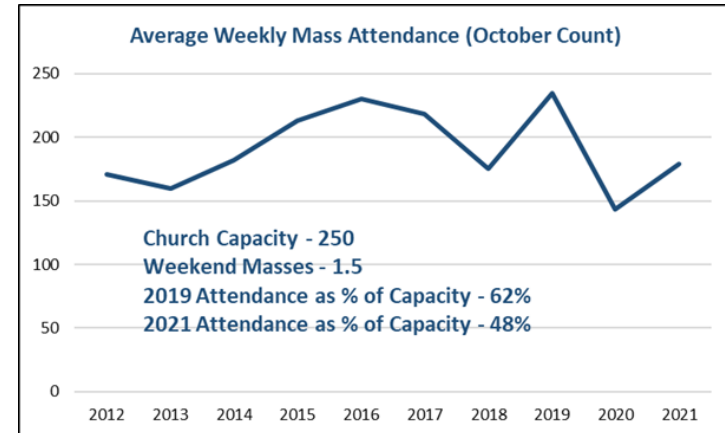
- Parish membership had been relatively stable over the decade.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

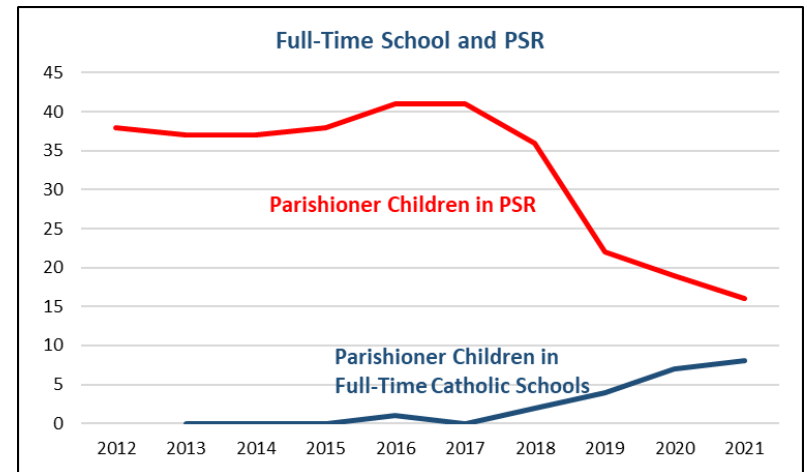
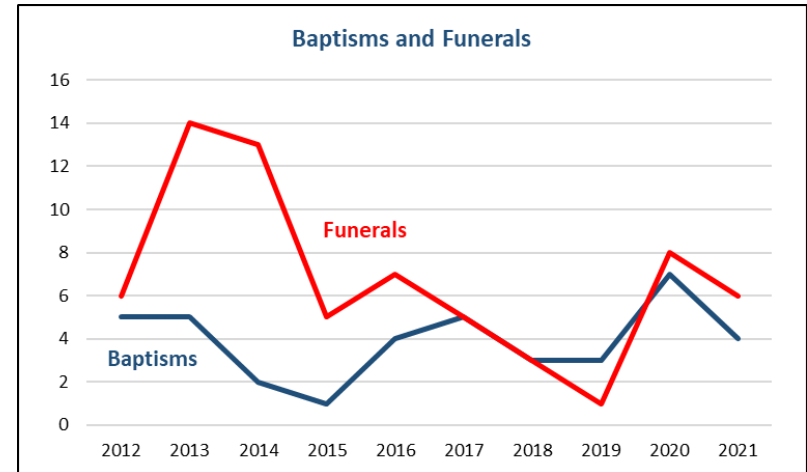
- Mass attendance was strong and growing before COVID.
- Mass attendance % of capacity was well above the archdiocesan average of 33% and 25%.
- Pre-COVID Mass attendance % of parishioners at Mass on the weekend was 40-60%, well above the archdiocesan average of 27-29%.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 RELIGIOUS FORMATION

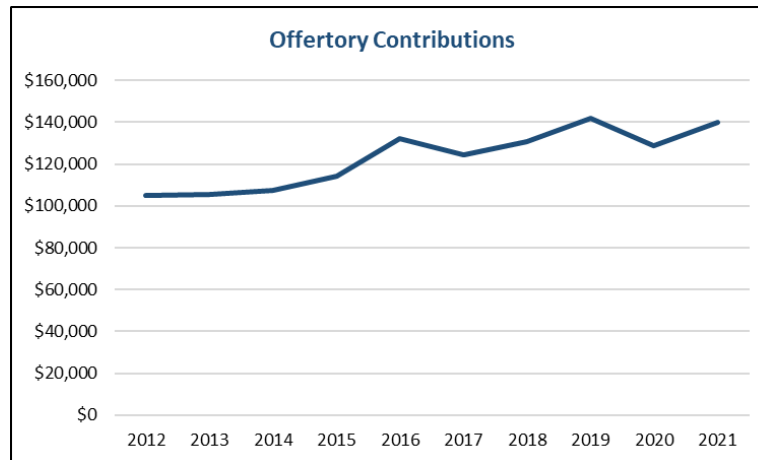
- An aging parish with funerals exceeding baptisms.
- A sharp decline in PSR enrollment and recent reductions in PSR has been partially offset by increases in day school enrollment.



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

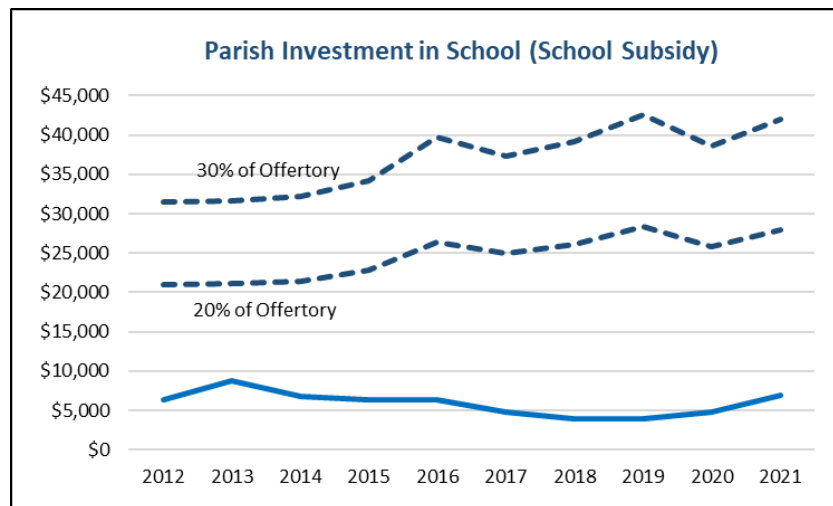
- Offertory has grown throughout the decade.



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## INVESTMENT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- Parish has invested in its children enrolled in Catholic schools.





# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## PARISH FINANCIAL CONDITION

- Revenue has generally been exceeding expense, growing reserves.

